

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-11 (ISO) W

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R 161604Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5456

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0044

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LT, KN, KS

SUBJECT: LESOTHO'S RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA

REF: MASERU 0002

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MOLAPO INFORMED ME JAN 16 THAT GOL HAD NOT RPT NOT MADE FINAL DECISION ON ESTABLISHMENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. CABINET WILL CONSIDER MATTER ON JAN 20.

2. I EXPRESSED THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN ABOUT GOL ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA STRESSING THERE HAD BEEN NO CORRESPONDING RECIPROCITY ON THE RECOGNITION ISSUE BY NORTH KOREAN ALLIES; CLEARLY NORTH KOREANS WERE MAKING AN EFFORT TO ISOLATE SOUTH KOREA. I TOLD MOLAPO THAT U.S. APPRECIATED GOL SUPPORT ON KOREA AND OTHER UN ISSUES WHICH WAS BENEFICIAL TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS; EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT GOOD RELATIONS WOULD CONTINUE ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND COOPERATION.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD ME THAT GOL HAD EARLIER APPROACHED NORTH KOREANS ABOUT SENDING AN ECONOMIC MISSION TO LESOTHO. IN THIS CONNECTION THE NORTH KOREANS HAD INSISTED THAT GOL
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ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. MOLAPO SAID THE GOL AGREED

INFORMALLY, HE ASSURED ME THAT THE GOL WAS FIRMLY IN ACCORD
WITH THE U.S. POSITION ON THE KOREAN ISSUE. MOLAPO SAID THAT
HE NOW REALIZED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
WITH NORTH KOREA MIGHT BE SELF-DEFEATING IN TERMS OF SOLUTION
TO THE BASIC ISSUE. HE PROMISED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CABINET
NOT ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA.
BOLEN

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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